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a3
which is connected to support tube 2, forms a steering limitation of plus/minus approximately 45°. Of course, as with the previous embodiment, the range of steering limitation can be designed to any desired range.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 33 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 26, 27, 29, 31, 34-36, 51-54 and 57 as follows (a marked-up version of the amended claims is submitted in the Appendix 4 attached at the end of this Amendment):

26. (Amended) A vehicle steering head including a support tube which rotatably supports therein a fork tube to which a wheel fork and a handlebar can be secured, the steering head comprising:

a latch element disposed within the support tube, the latch element being moveable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube; and

a linkage element connected to the fork tube so as to rotate therewith, the linkage element comprising at least one stop surface;

wherein the at least one stop surface limits the rotation of the fork tube with respect to the support tube,

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wherein the latch element is connected to a slide, the slide being disposed within the support tube.

27. (Amended) A vehicle steering head including a support tube which rotatably supports therein a fork tube to which a wheel fork and a handlebar can be secured, the steering head comprising:

Ad a latch element disposed within the support tube, the latch element being moveable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube; and

a linkage element connected to the fork tube so as to rotate therewith, the linkage element comprising at least one stop surface;

wherein the at least one stop surface limits the rotation of the fork tube with respect to the support tube, and

further comprising a slide, wherein the slide is disposed within the support tube and retains the latch element.

As 29. (Amended) A vehicle steering head including a support tube which rotatably supports therein a fork tube to which a wheel fork and a handlebar can be secured, the steering head comprising:

a latch element disposed within the support tube, the latch element being moveable

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in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube; and

a linkage element connected to the fork tube so as to rotate therewith, the linkage element comprising at least one stop surface;

wherein the at least one stop surface limits the rotation of the fork tube with respect to the support tube, and

wherein the linkage element comprises a mudguard.

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31. (Amended) A vehicle steering head including a support tube which rotatably supports therein a fork tube to which a wheel fork and a handlebar can be secured, the steering head comprising:

a latch element disposed within the support tube, the latch element being moveable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube; and

a linkage element connected to the fork tube so as to rotate therewith, the linkage element comprising at least one stop surface;

wherein the at least one stop surface limits the rotation of the fork tube with respect to the support tube, and

wherein the latch element comprises a rod like member which is arranged substantially parallel to the axis of the fork tube.

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34. (Amended) The steering head of claim 26, wherein the slide is moveable substantially parallel to the axis of the fork tube.

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35. (Amended) The steering head of claim 26, wherein a locking element is connected to the slide.

36. (Amended) A vehicle steering head including a support tube which rotatably supports therein a fork tube to which a wheel fork and a handlebar can be secured, the steering head comprising:

a latch element disposed within the support tube, the latch element being moveable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube; and

a linkage element connected to the fork tube so as to rotate therewith, the linkage element comprising at least one stop surface;

wherein the at least one stop surface limits the rotation of the fork tube with respect to the support tube, and

further comprising a bearing support disposed on at least one end of the support tube.

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51. (Amended) A vehicle steering head including a support tube and fork tube

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which is rotatably mounted with respect to the support tube, the steering head comprising:

an upper bearing support disposed at an upper end of the support tube;

a lower bearing support disposed at a lower end of the support tube, the lower bearing support comprising at least one stop surface;

the fork tube comprising a fork end, a handlebar, and a latch element which is slidably disposed adjacent the fork tube between the fork end and the handlebar end, the latch element being disposed within the support tube;

a linkage element moveably disposed adjacent the lower support bearing, the linkage element comprising at least one stop surface for engaging the at least one stop surface of the lower bearing support and comprising a recess for receiving the latch element;

wherein the latch element is moveable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube from a first position where the latch element engages only the lower bearing support and where the at least one stop of the lower bearing support cooperates with the at least one stop of the linkage element to limit the rotational movement of the fork tube to a second position where the latch element releasably engages a recess in the linkage element whereby the fork tube is prevented from rotating in any direction.

⁵¹/₃₂. (Amended) The steering head of claim ⁵⁰/₃₁, wherein the latch element is moveable from outside the support tube via a slide.

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~~53~~. (Amended) The steering head of claim ~~52~~⁵¹, wherein the slide is connected to the latch element via a connection element, the connection element passing through a longitudinal slot in the support tube.

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~~54~~. (Amended) The steering head of claim ~~53~~⁵², wherein the longitudinal slot limits the movement of one of the latch element or the slide.

~~55~~ ⁵⁴. (Amended) The steering head of claim 51, wherein the latch element further comprises at least one locking element for engaging a locking recess in the lower bearing support.

ag 57. (Amended) A vehicle steering head comprising:
a fork tube adapted to engage a handlebar;
a support tube which rotatably supports the fork tube;
a latch element disposed within the support tube; and
a slide which is moveable with respect to the support tube,
wherein the slide is moveable from at least one position wherein linkage element prevents the fork tube from rotating with respect to the support tube to at least another position wherein the linkage element allows the fork tube to rotate with respect to the support